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LETTER DATED 24 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ESTABLISHED PURSUANT TO RESOLUTION 985 (1995) CONCERNING LIBERIA ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) of 13 April 1995 concerning Liberia, which was adopted by the Committee under the no-objection procedure on 24 December 1998 and is being submitted in accordance with the note by the President of the Security Council of 29 March 1995 (S/1995/234).

(Signed) Bernd Niehaus QUESADA
Chairman
Security Council Committee established
pursuant to resolution 985 (1995)
concerning Liberia

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Annex

Report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) concerning Liberia

I. INTRODUCTION

1. The present report of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 985 (1995) of 13 April 1995 concerning Liberia covers the period from January to December 1998. The Committee held two meetings in 1998.

2. A report of the Committee covering its activities from 1 January to 31 December 1997 was submitted to the Security Council on 31 December 1997 (S/1997/1026).

II. SUMMARY OF THE COMMITTEE'S ACTIVITIES DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD

3. At its 5th meeting, on 6 January 1998, the Committee elected its bureau for 1998, which consisted of Ambassador Fernando Berrocal Soto (Costa Rica) as Chairman, who following his departure was succeeded by Ambassador Bernd Niehaus Quesada (Costa Rica), with the delegations of Japan and Sweden providing the two Vice-Chairmen.

III. OBSERVATIONS

4. The Committee does not have any specific monitoring mechanism to ensure the effective implementation of the arms embargo, and would like to recall its past observations that it relies solely on the cooperation of States and organizations in a position to provide pertinent information. During the reporting period, no violations of the arms embargo were brought to the attention of the Committee. In this regard, the Committee took note of Security Council resolution 1196 (1998) of 16 September 1998, in which, inter alia, the Council reiterates the obligation of all States to carry out the decisions of the Council on arms embargoes and also reiterates it request that all States report information on possible violations of arms embargoes established by the Council to the relevant Security Council Committees. The Committee also strongly endorses paragraph 2 of that resolution, in which the Council encourages each Member State, as appropriate, to consider as a means of implementing these obligations the adoption of legislation or other legal measures making the violation of arms embargoes established by the Council a criminal offence.

5. In accordance with paragraph 4 of resolution 1196 (1998), the Committee intends to consider appropriate steps with a view to improving the monitoring of the arms embargo imposed against Liberia, and to that end will establish channels of communication with relevant regional and subregional organizations and bodies.